

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-05

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P 251943Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 133281 ACTION CANBERRA COPENHAGEN
OECD PARIS WELLINGTON OTTAWA EC BRUSSELS GENEVA DUBLIN LONDON
BRUSSELS THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG PARIS BONN ROME TOKYO MEXICO
GUATEMALA TEGUCIGALPA SAN SALVADOR PANAMA BELIZE
SANTO DOMINGO PORT AU PRINCE 21 JUNE 1974. QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: (A) STATE 110296; (B) CANBERRA 3791 (NOTAL)

1. USG OFFICIALS, LED BY WHITE HOUSE COUNSELOR KENNETH
RUSH, MET JUNE 17 WITH US CATTLEMEN AND FEEDERS, MEAT
PACKERS, AND RETAILERS TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION FACED
BY US LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS. DISCUSSION RESULTED IN A USE-
FUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FOCUS ON DOMESTIC PRICE AND
CREDIT PROBLEMS, BUT NO REPEAT NO PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO
IMPOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, EITHER THROUGH UNILATERAL US
QUOTAS OR THROUGH US ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE VOLUNTARY EXPORT
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RESTRAINTS BY SUPPLYING COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH RUSH DID INDI-

CATE THESE STILL POSSIBLE OPTIONS. USDA ANNOUNCED JUNE 18 PROGRAM TO PURCHASE UP TO \$100 MILLION IN BEEF AND PORK THIS SUMMER- BEGINNING JULY 1, FOR SCHOOL LUNCHESES.

2. FYI INTERNAL USG DISCUSSION OF OTHER ACTIONS BESIDES THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM PURCHASES IS STILL GOING ON. AT THIS TIME WE CONSIDER UNILATERAL IMPOSITION OF MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS OR NEGOTIATION OF A FORMAL VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM BY EXPORTERS OF MEAT TO THE U.S. THE LEAST DESIRABLE OF THE OPTION AVAILABLE. DOMESTIC PRESSURES FOR IMPORT RESTRICTIONS STILL INTENSE HOWEVER.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY WHAT THE TOTAL LEVEL OF IMPORTS WILL BE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1974 WE HAVE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO DETERMINE WHAT THEIR LIKELY EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WILL BE FOR THE YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION USDA DEPUTY ASST. SECY BELL WILL BE VISITING NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, AND JAPAN TO ASSESS SITUATION. WE WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL ESTIMATE FROM THE AUSTRALIANS ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO BE SATISFIED WITH THE ESTIMATES NOW BEING ISSUED BY THE AUSTRALIAN MEAT BOARD. MISINTERPRETATION OF OUR EFFORTS HAD LED SOME PRESS SOURCES TO REPORT THAT WE ARE SEEKING AUSTRALIAN APPROVAL OF FORMAL VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT ON THAT COUNTRY'S EXPORTS SUCH AS EXISTED IN PERIOD 1968-72; THIS IS IN FACT NOT THE CASE. END FYI.

3. AS INDICATED IN OUR REFTTEL, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT NEW RESTRICTIONS ON MEAT IMPORTS RECENTLY IMPOSED BY OTHER TRADE GROUPS SUCH AS THE EC AND JAPAN (WE HOPE THE PROBLEM WITH CANADA CONCERNING THE BAN ON DES-FED CATTLE WILL BE SOLVED THROUGH MODIFICATIONS IN THE INSPECTION SYSTEM NOW UNDER DISCUSSION). IN THIS CONTEXT WE HAVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF THESE RESTRICTIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. SPECIFICALLY, IN THE CASE OF THE EC, WE WILL SHORTLY BE FOLLOWING UP ON OUR AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AS WE DISCUSSED AT THE US-EC CONSULTATIONS EARLIER THIS MONTH. WE ALSO HOPE TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR SUGGESTION FOR BETTER INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF INFORMATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES, BY PROVOKING FULLEST POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM AND MEANS OF DEALING WITH IT OTHER THAN ADDITIONAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE OECD WORKING PARTY ON MEAT JULY 8-9.

4. WE WILL REPORT ON ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. TOKYO AND EC BRUSSELS: YOU ARE REQUESTED TO

RAISE AGAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED IN DEPTTEL UNDER REFERENCE,
REITERATE OUR CONCERN ABOUT EXISTING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS,
EMPHASIZE USG STILL ATTEMPTING TO AVOID ANY UNILATERAL
ACTION ON ADDITIONAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS OF ITS OWN,
AND INDICATE US HOPES FOR SOME DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE IN
FORTHCOMING OECD WORKING PARTY SESSION. CANBERRA: YOU
MAY USE SUBSTANCE OF PARA. 2 IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH
GOA, OMITTING, HOWEVER, VIEW THAT WE MAY HAVE TO ACCEPT
AMB STATEMENT ON EXPORTS AS SATISFACTORY.

5. POSTS WHICH HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO REFTTEL (A)
ARE REQUESTED TO DO SO ASAP.

6. FOR CANBERRA: WE WILL RESPOND LATER TODAY (JUNE 21)
IN GREATER DETAIL TO YOUR 3902

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